DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIEFING PAPER

EXCISE

CONFIDENTIAL

POSSIBLE ACTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL AT THE UN

(78)

The Issue

Whether or not the Knesset adopts legislation annexing the Golan Heights or takes other action short of outright annexation, the Arabs may soon seek a General Assembly resolution which would recommend that member states impose sanctions against Israel. Such action would not have the force of international law, as would a Security Council decision. If legislation is adopted by the Knesset, the probability increases that the Syrians and other Arabs will seek Security Council action against Israel, including the imposition of economic sanctions. Israeli actions in Lebanon and on the West Bank could also provide the basis for an Arab decision to seek Security Council action against Israel, and resentment over these issues works to fuel a call for sanctions.

[redacted] B1,A5

Time Factors

In previous Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, the Arabs have set an arbitrary deadline of November 15 for Israel to begin withdrawal from the occupied territories. This deadline has come and gone without attempts to seek sanctions against Israel in New York. No attempt was made at the beginning of the General Assembly debates in October to challenge Israel's credentials in the General Assembly. B1,A5

[redacted]

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GDS 12/20/86

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 6/7/83

RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐

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PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS B1, A5

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[redacted]

It is also relevant to note that the mandates for two UN peacekeeping forces in the Middle East, UNDOF in the Golan Heights, and UNIFIL in Southern Lebanon, are scheduled to be renewed in the coming weeks. UNDOF must be renewed by the Security Council by November 30, and UNIFIL by December 19.

[redacted]

US Policy and Actions

[redacted]

On November 21 we voted against a Syrian instigated General Assembly resolution which cites reports of the Golan annexation bills in the Knesset in order to warn Israel not to take this step and to condemn Israel for violation of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. We had sought unsuccessfully to deter the Syrians from pressing this resolution to a vote. In our statement, we said that we would

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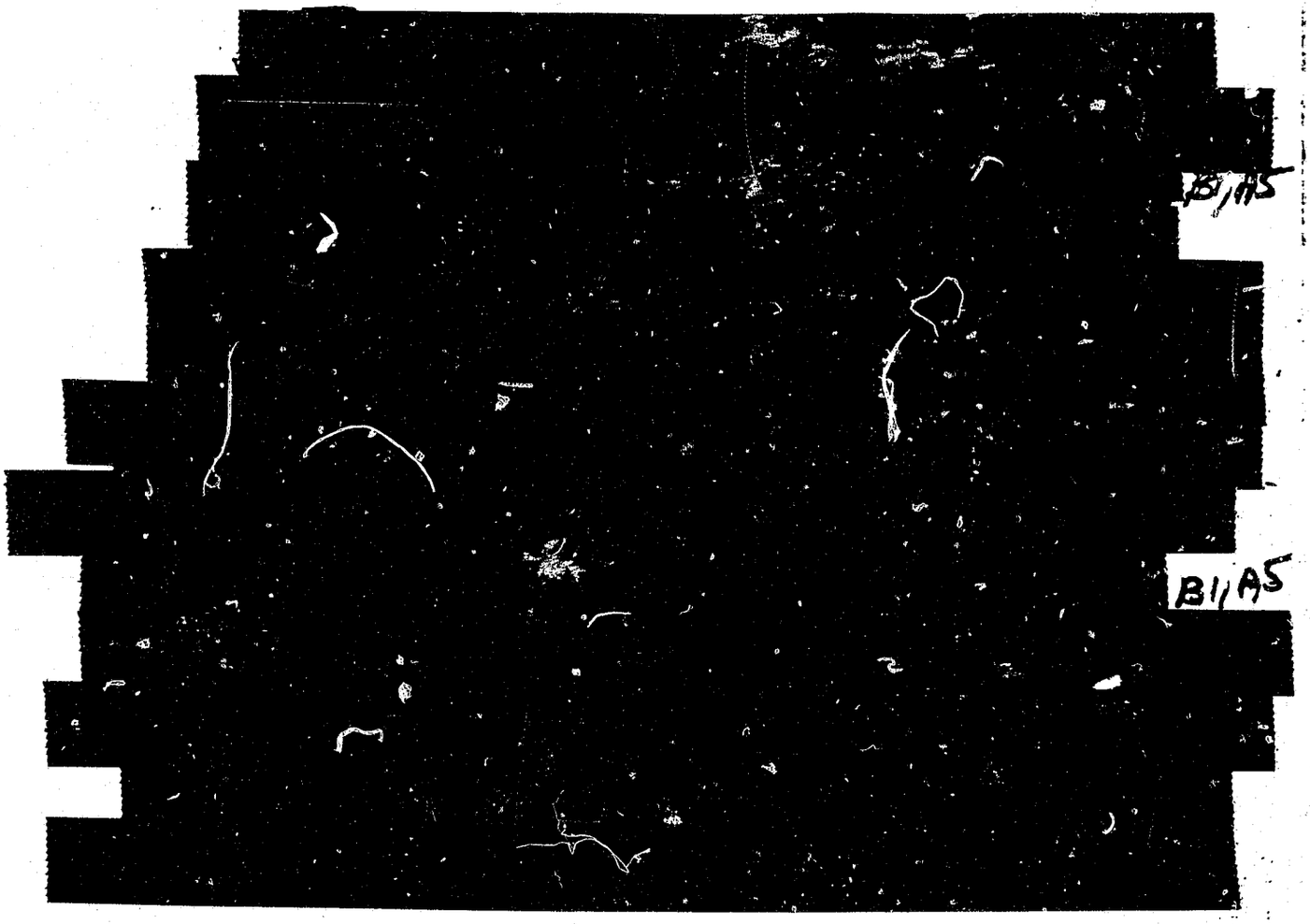
oppose attempts by any party to unilaterally determine the future status of the occupied territories. The EC countries and Japan abstained.



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